

#3 Mel H. Mendel
D. Dixon
6-13-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of:

ASPAR et al

For:

A METHOD OF PRODUCING A THIN LAYER . . .

DOCKET:

BREV 12370CON 3

The Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made to the above-identified application prior to examination.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12, without prejudice, and add new claims 13-20 reading as follows:

--13. A method for producing a thin film comprising:

providing a first substrate having a face surface;

introducing ions into the first substrate at the face surface, such that

microcavities are formed in the first substrate during or after introducing the ions,

wherein the microcavities define a thin film layer extending from the first surface to the

microcavities, and wherein the microcavities reside between solid bridges of the first

substrate;

bonding a second substrate to the face surface of the first substrate; and

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